

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 8, 9, 21, 22, 24, 28 and 29 are pending; claims 8, 9, 21, 22 and 24 are independent.

The Examiner indicated that claims 8, 9, 21, 22 and 24 define patentable subject matter. These claims have each been rewritten in independent form and are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Minor grammatical/typographical errors in the claims have been corrected. Claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 24.

With specific reference to claim 24, it is noted that the limitation “consisting of a plurality of balls” has been deleted, but it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 continues to define over the prior art of record based upon the remaining limitations including, among others, the plurality of removable sample elements used for indirect biofilm detection. If the Examiner objects to this, it is requested that the Examiner please contact the undersigned by telephone for further action to move the application to allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and that this application meets all other statutory requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Haas (Reg. No. 37,841)
Fay, Sharpe, Fagan, Minnich & McKee, LLP
1100 Superior Avenue – Seventh Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216)861-5582